

World Trade Center

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Vital Statistics:

Location: New York, New York, USA

Completion Date: 1972 (Tower One), 1973 (Tower Two); destroyed 2001

Cost: \$400 million

Height: 1,368 feet (Tower One), 1,362 feet (Tower Two)

Stories: 110

Misc:

Materials: Steel

Facing Materials: Aluminum, steel

Engineer(s): Skilling, Helle, Christiansen & Robertson

Constructed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in the early 1970s, the World Trade Center towers were, for their time, the best known examples of tube buildings. Tube buildings are strengthened by closely spaced columns and beams in the outer walls. The closely spaced columns and beams in each tower formed a steel tube that, together with an internal core, withstood the tremendous wind loads that affect buildings this tall.

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Aside from withstanding enormous wind loads, the World Trade Center towers were also constructed to withstand settlement loads. Because the towers were built on six acres of landfill, the foundation of each tower had to extend more than 70 feet below ground level to rest on solid bedrock.

The two towers were unable to survive the effects of a direct hit by two hijacked commercial jetliners during terrorist attacks on the morning of September 11, 2001. Although they were in fact designed to withstand being struck by an airplane, the resultant fires weakened the infrastructure of the building, collapsing the upper floors and creating too much load for the lower floors to bear. Shortly after the attack, both towers collapsed.

At the time of their completion in 1973, the World Trade Center towers were the two tallest buildings in the world. Two years later, the Sears Tower in Chicago seized the coveted title.

Here's how this skyscraper compared to the biggest skyscrapers in the world.
(height, in feet)

World Trade Center 1,368' (Tower One) 1,362' (Tower Two)

Fast Facts:

- Each tower had 104 passenger elevators, 21,800 windows, and roughly an acre of rentable space on each floor.
- From the observation deck on Two World Trade Center it was possible to see 45 miles in every direction.
- Each tower swayed approximately three feet from true center in strong wind storms.
- If all the glass used in the construction of both towers were melted into a ribbon of glass, 20 inches wide, it would have run 65 miles long.
- On Friday, February 26, 1993, a bomb exploded in the underground garage of One World Trade Center, creating a 22-foot-wide, five-story-deep crater. Six people were killed and more than 1,000 were injured. The towers were cleaned, repaired, and reopened in less than one month. On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, a second terrorist attack destroyed both towers.

General Information:

Height: 1,368 and 1,362 feet (417 and 415 meters) **Owners:** Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. (99 year leased signed in April 2001 to groups including Westfield America and Silverstein Properties) **Architect:** Minoru Yamasaki, Emery Roth and Sons consulting **Engineer:** John Skilling and Leslie Robertson of Worthington, Skilling, Helle and Jackson **Ground Breaking:** August 5, 1966 **Opened:** 1970-73; April 4, 1973 ribbon cutting **Destroyed:** Terrorist attack, September 11, 2001 [Back to top](#)

The Structural System:

Yamasaki and engineers John Skilling and Les Robertson worked closely, and the relationship between the towers' design and structure is clear. Faced

with the difficulties of building to unprecedented heights, the engineers employed an innovative structural model: a rigid "hollow tube" of closely spaced steel columns with floor trusses extending across to a central core. The columns, finished with a silver-colored aluminum alloy, were 18 3/4" wide and set only 22" apart, making the towers appear from afar to have no windows at all.

Also unique to the engineering design were its core and elevator system. The twin towers were the first supertall buildings designed without any masonry. Worried that the intense air pressure created by the buildings' high speed elevators might buckle conventional shafts, engineers designed a solution using a drywall system fixed to the reinforced steel core. For the elevators, to serve 110 stories with a traditional configuration would have required half the area of the lower stories be used for shaftways. Otis Elevators developed an express and local system, whereby passengers would change at "sky lobbies" on the 44th and 78th floors, halving the number of shaftways.

(Taken from www.skyscraper.org)

The structural system, deriving from the I.B.M. Building in Seattle, is impressively simple. The 208-foot wide facade is, in effect, a prefabricated steel lattice, with columns on 39-inch centers acting as wind bracing to resist all overturning forces; the central core takes only the gravity loads of the building. A very light, economical structure results by keeping the wind bracing in the most efficient place, the outside surface of the building, thus not transferring the forces through the floor membrane to the core, as in most curtain-wall structures. Office spaces will have no interior columns. In the upper floors there is as much as 40,000 square feet of office space per floor. The floor construction is of prefabricated trussed steel, only 33 inches in depth, that spans the full 60 feet to the core, and also acts as a diaphragm to stiffen the outside wall against lateral buckling forces from wind-load pressures."

Taken from www.greatbuildings.com

Typical Floor Plan of the World Trade Center:

A perimeter of closely spaced columns, with an internal lift core. The floors were supported by a series of light trusses on rubber pads, which spanned between the outer columns and the lift core.

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Why Did It Collapse?

Tim Wilkinson, Lecturer in Civil Engineering

(This is an initial suggestion on one possible reason for failure, and should not be regarded as official advice)

The structural integrity of the World Trade Center depends on the closely spaced columns around the perimeter. Lightweight steel trusses span between the central elevator core and the perimeter columns on each floor. These trusses support the concrete slab of each floor and tie the perimeter columns to the core, preventing the columns from buckling outwards. After the initial plane impacts, it appeared to most observers that the structure had been severely damaged, but not necessarily fatally. It appears likely that the impact of the plane crash destroyed a significant number of perimeter columns on several floors of the building, severely weakening the entire system. Initially this was not enough to cause collapse. However, as fire raged in the upper floors, the heat would have been gradually affecting the behaviour of the remaining material. As the planes had only recently taken off, the fire would have been initially fuelled by large volumes of jet fuel, creating potentially enormously high temperatures. The strength of the steel drops markedly with prolonged exposure to fire, while the elastic modulus of the steel reduces (stiffness drops), increasing deflections.

Modern structures are designed to resist fire for a specific length of time. Safety features such as fire retarding materials and sprinkler systems help to contain fires, help extinguish flames, or prevent steel from being exposed to excessively high temperatures. This gives occupants time to escape and allow fire fighters to extinguish blazes, before the building is catastrophically damaged. It is possible that the blaze, started by jet fuel and then engulfing the contents of the offices, in a highly confined area, generated fire conditions significantly more severe than those anticipated in a typical office fire. These conditions may have overcome the building's fire defences considerably faster than expected. Eventually, the loss of strength and stiffness of the materials resulting from the fire, combined with the initial impact damage, would have caused a failure of the truss system supporting a floor, or the remaining perimeter columns, or even the internal core, or some combination. Failure of the flooring system would have subsequently allowed the perimeter columns to buckle outwards. Regardless of which of these possibilities actually occurred, it would have resulted in the complete collapse of at least one complete storey at the level of impact. Once one storey collapsed all floors above would have begun to fall. The huge mass of falling structure would gain momentum, crushing the structurally intact floors below, resulting in catastrophic failure of the entire structure. (US readers note: *storey* is the Australian/English spelling of *story*)

Sydney Morning Herald graphic

The only evidence so far are photographs and television footage. Whether failure was initiated at the perimeter columns or the core is unknown. The extent to which the internal parts were damaged during the collision may be evident in the rubble if any forensic investigation is conducted. Since the mass of the combined towers is close to 1000000 tons, finding evidence will be an enormous task.

Perimeter columns, several storeys high, and still linked together, lie amongst all the debris on the ground.

This photograph shows the south tower just as it is collapsing. It is evident that the building is falling over to the left. The North Tower collapsed directly downwards, on top of itself. The same mechanism of failure, the combination of impact and subsequent fire damage, is the likely cause of failure of both towers. However, it is possible that a storey on only one side of the South Tower initially collapsed, resulting in the "skewed" failure of the entire tower.

The gigantic impact forces caused by the huge mass of the falling structure landing on the floors below travelled down the columns like a shockwave faster than the entire structure fell. The clouds of debris coming from the tower, several storeys below the huge falling mass, probably result from the sudden and almost explosive failure of each floor, caused by the "shockwave".

(Pictures taken from various news sources on the Internet)

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The World Trade Center Height: 1,368 and 1,362 feet (417 and 415 meters) Owners: Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Architect: Minoru Yamasaki, Emery Roth and Sons consulting Engineer: John Skilling and Leslie Robertson of Worthington, Skilling, Helle and Jackson Ground Breaking: August 5, 1966 Opened: 1970-73; April 4, 1973 ribbon cutting The World Trade Center is more than its signature twin towers: it is a complex of seven buildings on 16-acres, constructed and operated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ). The towers, One and Two World Trade Center, rise at the heart of the complex, each climbing more than 100 feet higher than the silver mast of the Empire State Building. Construction of a world trade facility had been under consideration since the end of WWII. In the late 1950s the Port Authority took interest in the project and in 1962 fixed its site on the west side of Lower Manhattan on a superblock bounded by Vesey, Liberty, Church and West Streets. Architect Minoru Yamasaki was selected to design the project; architects Emery Roth & Sons handled production work, and, at the request of Yamasaki, the firm of Worthington, Skilling, Helle and Jackson served as engineers. The Port Authority envisioned a project with a total of 10 million square feet of office space. To achieve this, Yamasaki considered more than a hundred different building configurations before settling on the concept of twin towers and three lower-rise structures. Designed to be very tall to maximize the area of the plaza, the towers were initially to rise to only 80-90 stories. Only later was it decided to construct them as the world's tallest buildings, following a suggestion said to have originated with the Port Authority's public relations staff. Yamasaki and engineers John Skilling and Les Robertson worked closely, and the relationship between the towers' design and structure is clear. Faced with the difficulties of building to unprecedented heights, the engineers employed an innovative structural model: a rigid "hollow tube" of closely spaced steel columns with floor trusses extending across to a central core. The columns, finished with a silver-colored aluminum alloy, were 18 3/4" wide and set only 22" apart, making the towers appear from afar to have no windows at all. Also unique to the engineering design were its core and elevator system. The twin towers were the first supertall buildings designed without any masonry. Worried that the intense air pressure created by the buildings' high speed elevators might buckle conventional shafts, engineers designed a solution using a drywall system fixed to the reinforced steel core. For the elevators, to serve 110 stories with a traditional configuration would have required half the area of the lower stories be used for shaftways. Otis Elevators developed an express and local system, whereby passengers would change at "sky lobbies" on the 44th and 78th floors, halving the number of shaftways. Construction began in 1966 and cost an estimated \$1.5 billion. One World Trade Center was ready for its first tenants in late 1970, though the upper stories were not completed until 1972; Two World Trade Center was finished in 1973. Excavation to bedrock 70 feet below produced the material for the Battery Park City landfill project in the Hudson River. When complete, the Center met with mixed reviews, but at 1,368 and 1,362 feet and 110 stories each, the twin towers were the world's tallest, and largest, buildings until the Sears Tower surpassed them both in 1974.

Keeping the Skies Safe

November 16, 2001

Ever since hijackers crashed four planes on September 11, politicians have been arguing about how to improve airport security.

Lawmakers in the U.S. Congress reached a compromise today, passing an extensive aviation bill and sending it on for President Bush's signature. The president is expected to sign it into law Monday.

The legislation, said Senator John McCain (a Republican from Arizona) will have a "major, major impact on the American people" who are hesitant to get on a plane because of fears that flying isn't safe.

The major sticking point for lawmakers was whether to make the nearly 28,000 airport workers who work airport screening machines employees of the federal government or leave them employed by private companies.

Airport screeners, as they are called, are often employed by the government in foreign countries. Government employment allows for higher pay, promotions and better benefits.

Screeners in the United States are often paid minimum wage and leave their jobs for better ones just as they become skilled at their work.

In addition to putting airport screening under federal control, the new bill moves airports closer to inspecting all checked bags, requires stronger cockpit doors and increases the use of air marshals on flights.

The Transportation Department has created a new agency to oversee all transportation security matters. Airline tickets will also be a few dollars higher to cover additional costs.

By Thanksgiving, travelers should start seeing more law enforcement officers at screening stations and more of their checked baggage undergoing inspections.

Taliban retreats from Afghan capital November 14, 2001 In five days, the forces trying to rid Afghanistan of Taliban control have gone from controlling less than 15 percent of Afghanistan, to controlling more than half of the country. For weeks, the United States has been bombing locations where Taliban officials and troops were reported. The bombing helped the main group fighting the Taliban, called the Northern Alliance, to move their own troops forward and push the Taliban south. The Taliban, which took control of the Afghanistan government in 1996, is blamed for allowing Osama bin Laden and his terrorist organization to operate in terrorist camps throughout Afghanistan. The U.S. blames Osama bin Laden for planning the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks against New York and Washington. Now, it appears the Northern Alliance has pushed the Taliban members out of Kabul and other northern cities. The Taliban are reported to be moving into southern Afghanistan to seek shelter in the caves and difficult terrain there. Reports out of Kabul describe residents celebrating in the streets as the Northern Alliance tanks rolled through the city. The Taliban had imposed strict rules on the people living in the city, and now those restrictions are lifted. Men shaved their beards, women took off the head-to-toe burqa, children flew kites and people played music on the radio -- all things forbidden when the Taliban were in control. Northern Alliance control of major cities like Mazar-e-Sharif and Kabul will allow U.S. troops to open airports for the transportation of much-needed food and humanitarian supplies. However, the victories happened

sooner than the international coalition planned. Most world leaders do not want the Northern Alliance to replace the Taliban. President Bush and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf had requested that Northern Alliance forces not enter Kabul until a broad-based, multiethnic government was established. **A complicated situation** The situation in Afghanistan is complicated by tribal rivalries, which have caused bloody civil wars in the past. The Northern Alliance is made up of ethnic Tajik and Uzbeks, while many members of the Taliban were Pashtun, the dominant ethnic group in the south of Afghanistan. President Bush feared that if the Northern Alliance took over Kabul, it would spark hostility among Kabul's mostly Pashtun population, and that opposition forces might seek revenge on pro-Taliban civilians. So far there have been reports of revenge killings, but because the situation is constantly changing, details won't be known for several weeks. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said that the special forces stationed in Afghanistan will be able to observe the actions of the anti-Taliban troops in the captured areas. They will not, however, serve as police, he said. "There are not sufficient number to monitor or police the entire city," Rumsfeld said. "There are a sufficient number that they can give advice and counsel to the people who are in the city -- the leadership -- and that they can report back that which they see." Rumsfeld also warned that the Northern Alliance's progress did not indicate a near end to the war on terrorism. "This effort against terrorism and terrorists is far from over," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told reporters. As of today, neither Osama bin Laden or any high-ranking Taliban officials have been located or captured. As the Taliban moves south, U.S. officials project a ground invasion might be necessary to locate them. **The bombing continues** U.S. warplanes will continue to strike at Taliban forces as they withdraw toward the south of the country. A commander on board the USS Carl Vinson in the Indian Ocean told Reuters that U.S. warplanes are dropping fewer bombs on Afghanistan until the targets become more clear. "The picture in Afghanistan is pretty unclear," Air Wing Commander T.C. Bennett said. "With the advances of the Northern Alliance, we are simply not sure who are the good guys and who are the bad guys." Tuesday's bombing over Afghanistan concentrated on caves thought to be hiding places for members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organization, the terrorist network believed to be responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. **Creating a new government in Afghanistan** In response to the rapid Taliban withdrawal from Kabul and the Northern Alliance entry into the capital, the United Nations has created a detailed plan for a post-Taliban administration. "Time is now of the essence," Lakhdar Brahimi, the U.N. special envoy (representative) for Afghanistan, told the U.N. Security Council. "Things are changing fast on the ground, as we saw over the last few days, especially last night and this morning, with the Northern Alliance expanding its control of the territory and entering Kabul." Brahimi is calling for a two-year transitional

government headed by a provisional council reflecting the country's ethnic diversity. The council would be chaired "by an individual recognized as a symbol of national unity," referring perhaps to Afghanistan's exiled king, Zahir Shah. During the two-year term of the transitional government, a "loya jirga," or grand council of tribal elders, would draw up a constitution. That draft would be approved by a second loya jirga, which would ultimately create a permanent government for Afghanistan. In the meantime, a multinational security force would protect the country from terrorist organizations and other armed groups. A group of 21 countries would be responsible for monitoring the situation. The Northern Alliance asked the 87-year-old former king Zahir Shah, in exile in Rome since 1973, to send a delegation to Kabul to discuss the future Afghan government. "We had agreed with the former king that he would nominate 50 percent of the 120-member council from Pashtuns, and the Northern Alliance would nominate the rest of 50 percent so that the council has representations from all nationalities and ethnicities," said Ahmad Wali Masood, the Northern Alliance's London envoy. The United Nations said it would like to resume humanitarian activities as soon as possible, possible using the city of Mazar-e-Sharif to rush in food, shelter and clothing as winter sets in.

Responsibilities and Diplomacy
November 10, 2001

President Bush asked leaders of over 150 countries for action instead of sympathy in a speech before the U.N. Saturday.

"The time for sympathy has now passed. The time for action has now arrived," Bush told 48 presidents and prime ministers and 114 foreign ministers at the opening of the annual gathering in New York.

The president warned that the threat of terrorism is global, and that those behind the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States would use chemical, biological or nuclear weapons as soon as they were able.

Navigating between India and Pakistan

The President also worked to strengthen the international coalition by meeting with the leaders of Pakistan and India.

India is located in southern Asia, and is about one-third the size of the United States. It borders Pakistan, which is one of the Muslim nations helping in the war against the Taliban. The two nations have been fighting for years over an area of land called Kashmir, and both have successfully tested nuclear weapons.

President Bush told Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee that the U.S. views India as a friend.

"My administration is committed to developing a fundamentally different relationship with India — one based upon trust, one based upon mutual values," said the president.

"After all, the prime minister leads a nation that is the largest democratic nation in the world."

The President of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, is planning to ask the Bush administration for "major gestures" in response to Pakistan's strong support of the war against terrorism.

Musharraf is expected to ask for the release of American F-16 fighters sold to Pakistan and then withheld because of the country's development of nuclear weapons. The planes could be used against India if the anger between the two countries turns into fighting.

New Responsibilities

The role of diplomat is becoming quite familiar for the president. On Thursday, Mr. Bush spoke to the nation from Atlanta, Georgia. During his speech, he urged Americans to do their part to fight against terrorism.

The president said life has changed since September 11, and has created new responsibilities for both the government and its citizens.

President Bush urged Americans to volunteer and said he plans to establish a volunteer civil defense service. The service will help police and fire departments in times of emergencies.

The White House hopes to have more than 20,000 volunteers registered with the service by next year.

Both the Senate and the House are now working to get the new volunteer program in place.

Fighting terrorism

October 26, 2001

There is a new law in the United States designed to catch terrorists and other criminals.

Signed by President Bush on Friday, the new "anti-terrorism" bill gives police and intelligence agencies (like the FBI) many new powers that they haven't had before.

Passed in record time

Right after the September 11 attacks, Attorney General John Ashcroft asked Congress for stronger law enforcement abilities. The bill that passed does not include all the original proposals, but does give law enforcement a much wider net to fight crime.

The final version of the bill was approved in the Senate by a vote of 98-1 on Thursday, 24 hours after it cleared the House of Representatives 357-66.

Major legislation usually takes several months, if not years, to be approved. This one shot through Congress in less than six weeks at the urging of the Bush administration, even though critics say it poses a threat to civil liberties.

"This law will give intelligence and law enforcement officials new tools to fight a present danger," President Bush said.

Groups like the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) who support individual freedom and privacy think this bill gives too much power to the government to watch over ordinary citizens.

Lawmakers, worried about possible abuse of the new wiretapping and surveillance powers, said if the powers are still needed in four years, a new vote is required.

Making it harder to be a terrorist

The bill makes it a crime to hide or provide shelter to a known terrorist and lets the government hold foreigners suspected of terrorism for up to seven days before charging them with a crime.

The Bush administration wanted to be able to hold them indefinitely, but Congress refused.

The law also allows law enforcement to get a subpoena to get the email transmissions of suspected terrorists from Internet providers like AOL.

Besides e-mail, another way investigators gather evidence is to use a "wiretap," which allows law enforcement to listen in and record telephone conversations.

The new anti-terrorism legislation allows federal authorities to obtain permission for "roving wiretaps," which would allow them to tap any phone a suspected terrorist might use rather than a single phone.

The bill also triples the number of patrol agents between Canada and the United States.

Lastly, the bill gave the U.S. Treasury more power to target foreign countries and banks that might be assisting terrorists by hiding their money for illegal purposes.

What do you think? How do you feel about the government's ability to read email and listen to phone conversations? Do you feel more secure or less secure?

U.S. fights new form of terrorism

October 31, 2001

In the weeks following the Sept. 11 plane crashes, the American public tried to recover from the destruction and hoped the future would be peaceful and free of other attacks.

However, by early October there were reports of a new threat arriving not by air, but by mail.

So far, there are 17 people with confirmed anthrax cases since the outbreak began. Ten have the inhaled form, including four who have died. The others have less severe skin infections.

Anthrax reports

Anthrax is a bacteria--tiny organism that can cause sickness. The bacteria can be found on sheep and goats, but it is very rare in the United States.

Infection in humans can occur in three ways: through a cut on the skin (cutaneous), by inhaling the spores (pulmonary) or by eating meat contaminated with anthrax (gastrointestinal). It is not contagious, and a person sick with anthrax cannot spread it to another person.

Left untreated, around 5 percent of cases turn into a dangerous bloodstream infection, which is almost always fatal. However, if it is detected early, treatment with antibiotic drugs is almost always successful.

The FBI has received over 3,000 reports involving anthrax or other dangerous agents since October 1. Most turned out to be "false alarms or practical jokes."

Hundreds of false alarms from London to Australia were reported, but no real case of anthrax has been found outside of the U.S.

A germ weapon?

Anthrax is a potential biological weapon because the particles, called spores, are easy to produce and can be stored for long periods. Many trained biologists can produce anthrax from a sample but it is much more difficult to turn it into a biological weapon in the form of a fine mist that can be inhaled.

Although anthrax is getting a lot of attention now, it is not a new disease in the United States. From 1900 to 1976, 18 cases of the inhaled version were reported. In the early 1900s, the nation had about 200 cases a year of a less threatening form in which the germ infects the skin.

The bacteria sometimes entered the United States on imported animal hides. One common source of the disease was shaving brushes made from infected

horse hair.

Decades ago, both the United States and the former Soviet Union produced anthrax as a potential weapon, but since 1972 it's been illegal internationally to use deadly germs in an act of war.

Changing the future of mail

Postmaster General Jack Potts is in charge of the U.S. Postal Service. He said the risks to the general public of receiving tainted mail were "infinitesimally small... If people just use prudent judgment, use common sense, there is nothing to fear."

Mailrooms across the country are using new procedures to protect workers and people who open mail. The Postal Service plans to send all households a notice outlining safety procedures.

It's too early to say for sure how the anthrax scare will affect how items and messages get from one person or business to another, but alternatives to mail with envelopes may become more popular.

With the holidays approaching, Hallmark will encourage postcards as a way of sending greetings and Internet analysts say inboxes are going to grow as more people decide that email is safer than snail mail.

For more on this topic, [the Online NewsHour](#) is following stories on the investigation and the U.S. reaction.

Please share your thoughts and feelings in our [online community forum](#).

U.S. Special Forces Fly Eight Aid Workers Out of Afghanistan

Update: Eight foreign aid workers detained in Afghanistan for over three months were freed by anti-Taliban forces early Thursday morning and whisked out of Afghanistan by U.S. Special Forces helicopters. (11/15/01)

Text: President Bush announces the U.S. Rescue of the aid workers. (11/14/01)

Administering Afghan Aid

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers [discusses](#) Afghan aid efforts. (11/14/01)

Taliban Retreats Southward, Unrest Reported in Kandahar

Online Special: The Response: Details on the latest military moves inside Afghanistan. (11/14/01)

Update: Opposition forces claim major gains near the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar and the eastern city of Jalalabad. (11/14/01)

Northern Alliance Takes Kabul

Two reports from Kabul on the Northern Alliance's move into the capital. (11/13/01)

Then four regional experts discuss the Taliban retreat and the efforts to build a coalition government. (11/13/01)

Update: The UN moves to establish a broad-based Afghan government. (11/13/01)

Rebels Invade Mazar-e-Sharif, Gain More Territory

Update: Since taking the key city of Mazar-e-Sharif Friday, Taliban opponents have advanced on more territory, including the city of Herat, according to Northern Alliance spokesmen. (11/12/01)

Opposition troops claim to have captured the key northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif. (11/9/01)

U.S. Intensifies "Hearts and Minds" Campaign

Four regional and communications experts discuss the efforts in the [U.S. campaign to win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people](#).

It's My Right...

October 18, 2001

War is often about bombs and missiles. War pits people against others they've never met. It's also what nations do to protect their citizens.

More than 89 percent of Americans agree the U.S. led strikes in Afghanistan are justified, according to recent polls. However, there is a growing number of Americans who believe the U.S. should have tried other options before dropping bombs on Afghanistan.

Voices of dissent

When a country is trying to fight an enemy, it tries to build unity and support for a common cause. This can lead to limits on speech that is critical of U.S. policy.

Across America, the issue of free speech versus appropriate speech has been tested repeatedly: In the entertainment industry, the media and on college campuses.

Recently, a University of Texas professor wrote an article arguing against the war-- it got him into trouble with the president of the university.

Journalists and columnists who wrote articles opposing President Bush's military decisions found themselves sidelined. One was even fired for her controversial remarks.

But because free speech is one of the most important American values, there are still many places where people are chanting anti-war slogans and flashing peace signs.

In Berkeley, California, people were on the streets in protest, even before the military strikes began. Their demonstrations and rallies calling for a "non-military approach" to capturing terrorist Osama bin Laden was also represented in Capitol Hill.

Berkeley's congresswoman, Barbara Lee, cast the only vote in the House of Representatives against giving President Bush sweeping military powers in the war against terrorism.

"I am convinced that military action will not prevent further acts of international terrorism against the United States," said Lee. "However, difficult this vote may be, some of us must urge the use of restraint."

Congressman James McDermott from Washington State later echoed Lee's sentiment.

"The destruction of the infrastructure did not work in Iraq a decade ago. It's déjà vu. This sounds an awful lot like Iraq. Saddam Hussein is still in power," he pointed out.

"I'm not so sure that President Bush, members of his administration or the military have thought this action out completely or fully examined America's

cause," said McDermott.

Taking it to the streets

Several weeks ago, thousands of protesters gathered in Washington D.C. for an antiwar protest.

"I don't think the solution to violence is more violence," 19-year-old Rachel Ettling said to *The Washington Post* newspaper. "It's a very patriotic thing to be an activist."

Cities like Boston and Chicago saw similar peace rallies. In New York City, more than 1,000 antiwar protesters demonstrated less than two miles from Ground Zero, the site of the former World Trade Center buildings.

Many of the activists are critical of US foreign policy. However, the antiwar protester is not the only activist on the streets these days. Lots of Americans are out supporting the president's decision to launch military strikes.

A matter of opinion

"They want peace? They don't want to go to war? I hate that," said 15 year-old Boston resident Patrick Faherty to reporters. "Thousands of people are killed. I'm glad we're at war."

Unlike the questions surrounding US involvement in Vietnam, there are clear reasons why the US is striking Afghanistan. The obvious need to retaliate against those responsible for the acts of terrorism on US soil and the massive death toll is making it hard for antiwar activists around the globe.

"We just had 6,000 casualties on our soil," said Boston antiwar activist Ofer Levy to reporters. "Slogans like 'Give Peace a Chance' have been replaced with 'No More Victims' at rallies."

Around the globe

In Berlin, Germany, several thousand students marched against war, but their numbers were much lower than what organizers had projected.

In London, England, 3,000 people demonstrated against British military involvement in the war on terrorism. They said bin Laden should be brought to justice through international war courts.

Around 2,000 Muslims and Christians recently marched in Sydney, Australia, to protest the war. Again, their numbers were smaller than what peace organizers had wished.

A different kind of war

Different than most wars, which are based on "attack and acquire," the US has no plans to take over Afghanistan. The president has said part of this war against terrorism is to protect the United States from future terrorist attacks.

On September 11, the president said that "our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts."

Taliban Retreats Southward, Unrest Reported in Kandahar

Update: Opposition forces claim major gains near the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar and the eastern city of Jalalabad. (11/14/01)

RealAudio: Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem confirms opposition forces have advanced in areas near Herat and Jalalabad. (11/14/01)

Northern Alliance Takes Kabul, UN Outlines Post-Taliban Government

Two reports from Kabul on the Northern Alliance's move into the capital. (11/13/01)

Then four regional experts discuss the Taliban retreat and the efforts to build a coalition government. (11/13/01)

Update: Following the opposition Northern Alliance move into Kabul, the United Nations moved quickly to speed creation of a post-Taliban government. (11/13/01)

RealAudio: The Pentagon says a small number of U.S. troops are in Kabul to "advise" anti-Taliban troops and confirms that U.S. Special Forces are in southern Afghanistan. (11/13/01)

Northern Alliance Claims More Victories

Update: Since taking the key city of Mazar-e-Sharif Friday, Taliban opponents have advanced on more territory, including the city of Herat, according to Northern Alliance spokesmen. (11/12/01)

Opposition troops claim to have captured the key northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif. (11/9/01)

RealAudio: Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke and Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem call military action near Mazar-e-Sharif "encouraging." (11/9/01)

Pentagon, Northern Alliance Report New Fighting Near Mazar-e-Sharif

Update: Fighting has escalated around the key northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif. (11/8/01)

RealAudio: Sec. Rumsfeld and the commander of the forces in the region say the U.S. military operation will continue. (11/8/01)

RealAudio: Condoleezza Rice details President Bush's upcoming meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. (11/8/01)

NewsMaker Interview: Secretary Rumsfeld Discusses War Effort

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld updates the continuing military strikes against Taliban and al-Qaida targets one month into the war against terrorism. (11/7/01)

Update: Forces opposed to the Taliban attacked tanks today on the road to Mazar-e-Sharif in northern Afghanistan while U.S. bombers targeted caves and Taliban troops. (11/7/01)

President Bush Moves to Cut Off Terrorism Funds

RealAudio: *New York Times* reporter David Sanger discusses the latest on U.S. financial efforts to battle terrorism. (11/7/01)

Update: The U.S. government moves to freeze the assets of more companies and individuals tied to al-Qaida and other terrorism networks. (11/7/01)

RealAudio: President Bush announces the new crackdown. (11/7/01)

Rumsfeld Says More Ground Troops Now In Afghanistan

Update: Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said today the number of U.S. special forces troops in Afghanistan has more than doubled since last week. The secretary said further troop increases could continue when weather and other circumstances permit. He said ground forces have helped with air strike strategy and have forged greater ties with opposition groups.

More on this story... (11/6/01)

U.S. Continues Raids on Taliban Front Lines

Update: U.S. air strikes continue to target the Taliban's front lines, while opposition groups plan for a ground offensive. (11/5/01)

RealAudio: Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem recounts recent military action in Afghanistan. (11/5/01)

Weather Hampers U.S. Troop Deployments to Afghanistan

Update: The U.S. military deployed two new spy planes to help target the Taliban in Afghanistan, as B-52 bombers blasted frontlines north of Kabul. (11/2/01)

RealAudio: During a meeting with Nigerian President Obasanjo, President Bush vows to continue war against terrorism during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. (11/2/01)

RealAudio: Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem updates the U.S. war efforts in Afghanistan. (11/2/01)

President Bush Unveils Most Wanted List at the FBI

Update: President Bush announces a new list of the world's 'most wanted terrorists,' vowing to "shine the light" of justice on evil. (10/10/01)

RealAudio: President Bush (10/10/01)

RealAudio: FBI Director Robert Mueller and Sec. of State Colin Powell. (10/10/01)

The fight against terrorism is meant to protect the freedoms guaranteed by Constitutional rights, including the right to be critical and to demonstrate peacefully and publicly for what we believe.

What do you think? Is demonstrating against the war unpatriotic? How do you balance freedom of speech with support for our armed forces?

Muslim Students in New York: Afraid, but Hopeful

September 26, 2001

"All Muslims are not terrorists."

Those are the words that a frightened Muslim teenager in New York City shouted in the hallway of her school soon after she heard news of the attack on the World Trade Centers and the Pentagon.

There are an estimated 3 million Muslims living in

the United States. Many of them are afraid of being harassed, hurt and discriminated against because they share the religion of Islam with terrorist organizations led by Osama bin Laden, the Saudi militant who is the primary suspect behind the September 11 attacks on America.

More than 200 cases of hate crimes and harassment have been reported to the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee since the attacks. Arab-American passengers have been kicked off of airplanes because of the way they look.

People who look like Muslims have been murdered in Michigan, Texas, and Arizona. Muslim places of worship, mosques, have been vandalized in many places around the world.

Tensions after the attack

For several days after terrorist attacks, 17-year-old Kashim, of Queens, New York, escorted his mother shopping because she was afraid to walk alone. Some of his classmates thought it would be funny to point a finger at him and claim that the attacks were his fault, but he didn't find it funny.

Kashim wrote about his concerns in his school newspaper, thanking other students and teachers for going out of their way to show him support. "We cannot allow those [behind] the attack to see our hatred against ourselves," he wrote. "We must show them strength, brotherhood, love, and hope. Remember, united we stand, and divided we fall."

Students at Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan were particularly affected by the attacks on the World Trade Centers, which once stood a few blocks away from their school.

Witnesses to the terror

Rafee, 17, is a senior at Stuyvesant. He saw people fall out of the buildings after the planes hit. He also saw a Muslim classmate who was wearing a traditional scarf on her head burst into tears after a man on the street verbally assaulted her.

Fatima, 14, is a sophomore at Stuyvesant. She witnessed the horrific smoke clouds and hundreds of fleeing people when the buildings collapsed, and was forced to evacuate the school with her 3,000 classmates. But what frightens her the most now are hate crimes.

"For the first week I didn't even leave my house," Fatima says. Her parents came to America 30 years ago from the former Pakistani area now known as Bangladesh, and follow the Bengali traditions. "I wear a scarf over my hair," she says. "My mom covers her face. My dad goes regularly to the mosque. I'm still nervous that when my parents go out they might not come back. That kind of discrimination isn't supposed to happen in America."

Fatima's cousin, who worked in the World Trade Center, was one of the lucky ones who escaped. At last count, more than 6,000 other people—including many Muslims—were trapped and killed when the planes crashed and the buildings fell.

"The people who did this, I don't know what their justification is," Fatima says. "People in the Muslim community are grieving too. There's been so much suffering because of this. I pray for the victims. And while grieving the losses, I have to fear as well because I wear Islamic clothing. Some people on the subway now look at me differently. I don't want to have to worry about that now, too, but I do."

Zahira, 14, is a freshman at Stuyvesant. She was in English class when a shocked classmate arrived late, saying that a plane had flown into the World Trade Center. Zahira and her fellow students laughed, thinking it was an excuse for being late.

"But then the principal made an announcement and we all sat in silence," she says. During the next period, she was looking out the window when the first building collapsed. "I saw this huge cloud of smoke, I felt our building shake a little, and the lights started to flicker."

During the evacuation, members of the school's Muslim Student Association told her that if anyone harassed her she should let them know.

"It made me angry and sad, to think that people might make judgments against Muslims," Zahira says. "To think that the people who did this reflects all Muslims—I don't get that. Whoever did this, I don't consider them to be Muslim. What they've done is against the religion. Islam is a religion of peace. We don't believe in murder or suicide. God made you, and it is not your choice to take it away."

Overcoming fear

Like Fatima, Zahira stayed at home for the first week after the attack. "My mom told me that if I did go out, I shouldn't wear my scarf. But I couldn't do that. Without it, I don't feel right. I feel naked."

Zahira wants to join her school's debate and track teams, and is a member of the math team. She is starting to feel more secure at school and on the subway. But as a freshman who doesn't know many of her fellow students yet, she feels alone and thinks people are afraid to even say hello to her. Zahira hopes the fear will end soon—students fear of her, and her fear towards non-Muslim strangers. "I love America, and I don't want to leave America," she says.

Like the other students interviewed for this article, Zahira was born in New York and is an American citizen. One of her hopes is that non-Muslims will learn more about Islam—"not base their opinions about the religion on what a few Muslims seem to do. I want Muslims to be respected, and I think that it will happen. America is a strong country."

Kashim, too, is optimistic about America's future. He sees hope in what has happened in the multi-ethnic communities of New York City. "People joining hands, regardless of religion or color."

His father, a retired restaurant manager from Bangladesh, lost a friend in the World Trade Center.

But even his father's tears are shed in hope, Kashim says, "that God is bringing us together. He thinks this is a test, and we're on the verge of passing it. It's important that everyone recognize that this is about the action of terrorists, not about a religion."

To read about what Muslim students think about the terrorists and war, [click here](#).

To read more about the religion of Islam, [click here](#).

By Mikki Morrisette

How are your school and your friends dealing with the news of the terrorist attack? Please share your thoughts and feelings at our [online community forum](#).

The September 11 terrorist attack on the United States has left many students frightened and depressed.

NewsHour Extra has provided a [forum space for students](#) to discuss the devastating emotions and difficulties of this developing situation and a [background report](#) on what happened.

The following lesson plans can help teachers and parents form learning experiences out of this ongoing news event.

Afghanistan Today: Civil War and Human Rights

Your students (grades 9-12) may be hearing a lot in the news about Afghanistan and the Taliban. Help students understand the Taliban's position within Afghanistan, how the Taliban's practices have raised concerns about human rights, and the economic and cultural climate in Afghanistan today. Students may use this knowledge to postulate about what a war would mean for the Afghan people, short- and long-term.

Afghanistan And Its Neighbors: Model Summit

As U.S. officials plan retaliation to the terrorist attacks on September 11, help students in grades 11-12 understand the complex relationships America has with countries in Central Asia and the Middle East. Students will research the recent political history of one country in the region and represent its interests at a model international summit designed to debate response to the terrorist attacks on America and propose measures to achieve long-term stability in that part of the world.

Tolerance in Times of Trial:

Designed for middle-high school students, this lesson plan uses the treatment of citizens of Japanese and German ancestry during World War II--looking specifically at media portrayals of these groups and internment camps--as historical examples of ethnic conflict during times of trial, and about the problems inherent in assigning blame to populations or nations of people. Students will look at contemporary examples of ethnic conflict, discrimination, and stereotyping at home and abroad.

Emergency Preparedness:

Designed for middle school students, this lesson plan introduces students to governmental and humanitarian response mechanisms for natural and man-made disasters. Students research and report on a variety of organizations, including the Red Cross, FEMA, and more; as an extension, students learn about local and regional resources, like the National Guard.

Taming Terrorism

Designed for high school students, this lesson plan asks the question, "Who can stop international terrorism?" Students learn about international justice (including the UN's call for an international criminal court) and debate the effectiveness of various proposed measures.

A World At Peace:

Designed for younger students (grades 2-6), this lesson plan invites students to brainstorm the basic rights of people everywhere, explore the United Nation's Declaration of Human Rights, and then use international photography galleries as part of a multimedia creative writing assignment imagining a world at peace.

Cultural Studies: Arab-Americans

In this time of strife, there has been a lot of intolerance directed at Arab Americans. Already, there is much concern within Arab American communities in our nation about the backlash that resulting from Tuesday's attacks.

Covering the attacks in school papers

Resources from ASNE for high school newspaper advisors and journalists covering local stories emerging from the Sept. 11 attacks.

There are more lesson plans in our [teacher resource section](#).

If you would like to help create curriculum for this page, please contact Leah Clapman at lclapman@newshour.org

Economic Slide

November 14, 2001

If you stroll through your shopping mall, you're likely to find more "50% off" signs than "help wanted" signs. Worried retailers are cutting back holiday staff and hoping for a record holiday sales season.

Outside the malls, many hotel rooms are empty and restaurants are half filled. Planes fly with mostly empty seats. All of this is because the U.S. economy is slowing and possibly headed down a scary path toward recession.

All things for sale...

Everybody likes to save money; however, the big price slashes at the Body Shop and Abercrombie & Fitch aren't designed to fatten your wallet. Most retail shops have slashed prices for their survival.

The Gap reports their net income is down 42 percent from the same time last year. Other retail stores are also reporting less sales compared to last year. Soundscan, a company that tracks music sales, reports the industry has sold 11 million less albums this year compared to last. Not even releases by the Backstreet Boys and DMX could lift sales. Record stores hope Brittany Spears' new album will get people back in stores.

Movie executives hope "Harry Potter" and other holidays releases will fill theaters. Immediately after the September 11 attacks, most people simply stayed home, leaving multiplexes with lots of extra soda and popcorn to sell.

A quick look at how it works

The majority of the U.S. economy is made up of your spending - which is measured in a number called the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Spend more, the GDP economy grows. Spend less, the GDP economy shrinks.

Spend less for two straight months, the GDP economy falls into what economists call a recession.

Recessions here affect other countries. The U.S. has the largest economy on earth, and when it goes south, the world feels the pinch.

Trying to prevent a recession, the president sent taxpayers \$300 over the summer. The Bush administration wanted people to spend that money to get the economy restarted.

Nonetheless, economists still believe by the end of the year the U.S. economy will officially be in recession. Holding out hope, business' are doing what

they can to get you to spend.

So if prices are down, why aren't we buying? There are several reasons, but one of the biggest is unemployment.

Will stand for work

More than 200,000 people have lost their jobs since the terrorist hijackings two months ago. In New York, more than 10,000 people lined the streets in search for jobs. Some worked on Wall Street, some worked in stores near the World Trade Center, some worked for the airlines, which have been hit hard by the events of Sept. 11.

Unemployment stands at 5.4 percent, meaning roughly 7 million people are unemployed. Unemployment is a percentage of those who are able to work but were fired from their jobs. They receive money to live on from their state government until they are employed again.

Almost 4 million people are collecting unemployment benefits, an 18-year high. Economists predict the unemployment rate will climb to over 6 percent in the first months of next year.

Two years ago Americans were setting records for the number of jobs held, with unemployment at 4 percent.

With every economic downturn, workers last hired are first fired, economists say. Many of the newly jobless people live paycheck to paycheck.

However, some of the new unemployed includes high-paid financial wizards and office workers.

Economists predict they will all have trouble finding new work. The job market is flooded now with people who have been let go from their jobs over the past months.

Still, unemployment is nowhere near the Great Depression crisis. Due to a stock market crash in October 1929, nearly 13,000,000 people (a quarter of the U.S. workforce back then) lost jobs in just three years.

Markets and Money

On the Monday following the September 11 attacks, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 150 points and lost 7 percent of its value. By the end of that week, the stock markets (NASDAQ and Standard and Poor's 500 included) had lost more than a trillion dollars.

The market has rebounded from those losses. Yet market ups and downs continue to keep investors nervous and guessing. Almost half of all Americans own stock, so an "up market" is a good thing. Many homes, cars, retirement funds and college educations are financed through stocks.

Investment analysts agree the market was slumping along prior to September. In October, stock giants like Wal-Mart and Oracle posted losses. American Airline stock traded for \$15 bucks a share, down from the \$43 bucks it was trading at earlier this year.

That means that people who invested in those companies have less savings, and will probably not spend as much money from their paycheck. When the market slumps, it also makes layoffs more likely.

Will cheap money do the trick?

Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, recently cut interest rates on the money banks lend to others banks. The rate is now down to two percent, the lowest in 40 years.

Greenspan hopes lowering the interest rate will help businesses spend money and grow. If banks can get money cheaply, they usually will pass on cheaper loans to business and consumers.

A low-interest loan can help a small business expand or a large business to invest in other areas. If interest rates are higher, then businesses often won't try to borrow as much money.

The interest-rate cut is also designed to push consumers to spend too. People are more likely to purchase a new car, move into a new house, or take a vacation if interest on the money they borrow is cheaper.

In an effort to prevent the economy from sinking deeper into recession, the Federal Reserve has cut interest rates 10 times this year, with three of the reductions coming after the attacks.

Greenspan made all the cuts with the hope that if more money was released into the economy, we could have a light recession. The results of this cut won't be known until January.

Other parts of the government are also working to create what economists call a soft landing.

President Bush and Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill are hoping to pass legislation to help failing corporations who are on the verge of going bankrupt.

The House and Senate are working on competing economic stimulus packages to get the economy moving.

The Boom and Bust cycle

All economies go up and down. Over the past decade, the economy expanded more than any other time in history. Yet, economists worry that as the economy slowed down, fears about terrorism and anthrax could push the United States into a deep recession.

Right now we're experiencing a downturn, and the unprecedented acts of terrorism continue to leave everything, including the economy, in a wealth of uncertainty.